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Apr 2, 1971

4-2-71

The Department of State refers to note number 22 of March 23, 1971 from the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics concerning the activities of the Jewish Defense League during the period March 16 to 21.

The Department wishes to call the Embassy's attention to the vigorous action taken by United States law enforcement agencies to provide protection for Soviet diplomats during that period. The police prevented any demonstrators from approaching the Embassy on March 21 and responded within minutes to the incidents at the residences of Soviet diplomats about which they were notified. Moreover, more than 700 of the demonstrators who organized a "sit-in" at 16th and K Streets, two blocks from the Embassy, were duly fined for this illegal activity. Accordingly, the Embassy's note is factually incorrect in alleging that no one has been punished for acts directed against Soviet establishments and personnel. In addition, one JDL defendant was found guilty in New York on March 29 and fined $50 while another JDL defendant, who has been found guilty, is awaiting sentence. The trial of three JDL members for the incident at the TASS office in New York City will reopen on April 26.

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The Embassy's note contains further inaccuracies in its allegations concerning the events on March 21 at the apartments of Attache Shimanovsky and Minister-Counselor Vorontsov, as the police investigation has not disclosed any evidence that attempts were made to break into either apartment. In fact, there is no evidence that Mr. Shimanovsky or the Embassy ever informed the Department or the police of any incident at his apartment on March 21.

The Department would also like to draw the Embassy's attention to the fact that none of the perpetrators of recent criminal acts against American Embassy personnel in Moscow has been punished, nor even apprehended, although their identities are well known.

The United States Government is taking and will continue to take all possible measures to ensure the security of the Soviet Embassy and its personnel and expects the Soviet Government to provide adequate protection for American personnel and establishments in the USSR.

Department of State,
Washington, April 2, 1971

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